

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 148153
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148153

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CG, EG

SUBJECT: VANCE-GAMASY TALKS RE ZAIRE DEVELOPMENTS

1. IN THE COURSE OF THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH
VISITING EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF WAR GENERAL MUHAMAD
GAMASY ON JUNE 9 DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE WERE DISCUSSED.

2. THE SECRETARY INFORMED GAMASY THAT U.S. AND
FRENCH AIRCRAFT ARE NOW INVOLVED IN BRINGING THE
TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO RAISE THE INTER-
AFRICAN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE TO ITS FULL STRENGTH. THE
JUNE 13-14 MEETING IN BRUSSELS WILL ADDRESS ZAIRE'S
VERY DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND WILL BE KEYED TO
A DESIRE TO AVOID ANY REPETITION OF THE SHABA EVENTS.
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PAGE 02 STATE 148153

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUERY ABOUT EGYPTIAN
INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ZAIRE, GAMASY SAID THAT
EGYPT'S LIAISON OFFICER IN KINSHASA HAD REPORTED TO
HIM IN PARIS ON JUNE 6 REGARDING DEVELOPMENTS THERE;
EGYPT IS SENDING SIX ARTILLERY PIECES ALONG WITH
CREWS TO TRAIN ZAIRIAN TROOPS. THE ARTILLERY AND

THE EGYPTIAN PERSONNEL WILL BE LOCATED AT KINSHASA

AND NOT IN SHABA. GAMASY SAID THAT EGYPT VIEWS
ZAIRE'S MAIN MILITARY PROBLEM AS BEING ITS UNDISCIPLINED
ARMED FORCES WHICH NEED A "COMPLETE REORGANIZATION."
ANY AFRICAN ADVISERS WHO ARE TO TRAIN AND ASSIST ZAIRIAN
ARMED FORCES MUST RECEIVE MOBUTU'S COMPLETE SUPPORT
SO THAT THEY MIGHT BE "SEVERE AND DEMANDING" IN THE
REORGANIZATION EFFORT. GAMASY LAMENTED THE INDISCIPLINE,
CORRUPTION, POOR LOGISTICAL PRACTICES, AND THE
INATTENTION TO MAINTENANCE WHICH HE SAID ARE
CHARACTERISTIC OF ZAIRES MILITARY. VANCE

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